The Choctawhatchee River and Bay System Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan - SWIM

Restoration Plan Database:
Crystal Reports of Individual Plan Summaries

I. BASIC PLAN DATA

Plan name:

The Choctawhatchee River and Bay System Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan - SWIM

Brief description of plan:

This plan is intended to facilitate a joint, public-private effort that includes and supports the activities of a number of different agencies, jurisdictions, and organizations. The result should be an enhanced and coordinated overall effort. Planning for the restoration and protection of the Choctawhatchee system entails the identification of objectives to address the major issue areas. Strategies are proposed for achieving the objectives, as are projects for implementing the strategies. The major issues are Water and Sediment Quality, Biological Resources, Public Awareness, and Basinwide Coordination. The Choctawhatchee River and Bay watershed is within two states and includes portions of 16 counties (six in Florida, ten in Alabama) and 24 incorporated communities.

Region the plan is located within:

Gulf of Mexico Region

Watershed(s) included within the plan:

G118x , G120x

Area plan covers (in square miles):

5,349.00 square miles

Plan scale:

Multi-state

Plan's lead organization(s):

Northwest Florida Water Management District

Plan's Main Contact Information:

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On-line version of plan:

Date of original plan:

12/1996

II. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Plan includes restoration goals: Y

Level of detail of the goals:

G

Summary of the goals:

Protect and restore threatened and critical habitats such as seagrass beds, tidal marshes, bottomland hardwood forests, coastal dune lakes, steepheads, bayous, springs, and the main stem of the river. Mitigation of impacts to Choctawhatchee basic resources should be conducted within the watershed to extent feasible. Support the protection and recovery of rare, threatened, and endangered species. Enhance productivity in the system by restoring and creating important habitats and improving water quality.

Plan recommends restoration of specific project sites:

Y

Plan includes a discussion of funding sources:

Y

Plan addresses long-term protection of restored sites:

Y

Partners included in developing the plan:

Federal
State

Type(s) of public outreach included during plan development:

Information not available

Plan includes public outreach as part of plan implementation (e.g. annual public meeting, local group participation):

Y

Plan discusses the application of innovative approaches to restoration:

N

Plan make use of GIS mapping capabilities:

N

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for ecosystem level monitoring (baseline conditions) by:

G

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for project level monitoring by:

G

The plan discusses or coordinates with other restoration plans covering the same geographic area:

N

Other plan names:

Plan contains detailed information on historic and/or current habitat size, rate of loss, acres restored or protected, etc.):

Y

Summary of this habitat information:

The Choctawhatchee River and Bay system stretches from the headwaters and watershed of the Choctawhatchee River and its tributaries, through the estuary, and into the Gulf of Mexico. The entire watershed covers approximately 5,349 square miles, of which approximately 41 percent is within Florida. The Choctawhatchee River is the fourth largest river in Florida in terms of flow and drainage area. The river is characterized as alluvial, and it tends to carry a heavy sediment load. The river basin includes portions of 10 Alabama counties and drains most of the southeastern portion of that state. The Choctawhatchee River system bisects the Western Highlands, Marianna Lowlands, New Hope Ridge, and Coastal Lowlands physiographic regions. Choctawhatchee Bay extends approximately 27 miles along an east-west axis and ranges between one and six miles wide. The bay is considered a stratified system with a pronounced halocline separating a wedge of relatively high salinity water beneath lower salinity surface water. Tidal energy is relatively low and flushing is limited.